'Govt to modernise police for combatting terrorism'

• CM Bugti pays rich tributes to martyred SHO and constable
• Says Levies force being integrated into Balochistan police

By Saleem Shahid

QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti said on Friday that his government was taking all possible measures to provide the police force with modern training and equip them with the latest weapons to curb terrorist activities and maintain lasting peace in the province.

He made these remarks during his visit to Sohbatpur, where he met the families of SHO Lutaf Ali Khosa and Constable Muhammad Azeem, who were martyred in a gun battle with terrorists in Bhag Nari area of Kachhi district.

CM Bugti offered fateha for the departed souls and expressed sympathies with the bereaved families of the martyrs, paying rich tributes to them.

"The officers and personnel of the Balochistan police and security forces are sacrificing their lives for the protection of the people," CM Bugti noted, adding that his government stood with their families at every step.

He continued that the Balochistan government was developing the provincial police on modern lines, and important decisions were made to increase their capacity during a high-level meeting the other day.

Mr Bugti said the Levies force was being integrated into the police so that decisive steps could be taken to deal with terrorism and crime.

The chief minister highlighted that SHO Khosa and his team fought the terrorists with courage, bravery and valour.

"Instead of surrendering to the terrorists, they [SHO Khosa and his team] fought gallantly and attained martyrdom — keeping the centuries-old Baloch traditions alive."

CM Bugti announced the construction of a road to the house of the martyred SHO, jobs for his sons in the provincial police department, and naming the village's basic health unit and school after the martyrs.

"The sacrifices of the people and forces of Balochistan will not go in vain. The terrorists will be defeated and peace and stability will definitely be restored in the province," he said.

The CM said that the state machinery would remain active with full force until the complete elimination of terrorism. Provincial Minister Sardarzada Faisal Jamali, Excise and Taxation Parliamentary Secretary Haji Muhammad Khan Lehri, Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan, police chief Muhammad Tahir Khan, Nasirabad Division Commissioner Salahuddin Noorzai, and Sohbatpur Deputy Commissioner Farida Tareen were also present on the occasion.

10 ministers sworn in as KP cabinet takes shape

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Shah, provincial police chief Zulfiqar Hamid, heads of administrative departments, as well as political and social personalities were also present at the ceremony.

Moreover, Muzammil Aslam and Taj Muhammad have been appointed as advisers to the chief minister, while Shafiullah Jan has been named a special assistant — bringing the total strength of the provincial cabinet to 13.

PM offers olive branch

PM Shehbaz Sharif, who was also on a visit to Chitral on Friday, said that he had sent a congratulatory message to CM Afridi, pledging to respect democracy and the mandate of the people, and inviting him to work together.

He claimed that although the invitation was rejected, he was still hoping to collaborate to make the country greater than ever.

"I told him [CM Afridi] that the federal government will extend full support to the KP government for the welfare of the people."

The prime minister, through the KP chief secretary and police chief — who were present on the occasion — conveyed his greetings to CM Afridi and once again invited him to join in building Pakistan, in line with the vision of Allama Iqbal and the Quaid-i-Azam.

Law and order

Following the ceremony, Mr Kundi and CM Afridi also held a meeting at the Governor House and discussed the overall law and order situation in the province.

It added that they also held consultations regarding the province's rights in the National Finance Commission (NFC) award.

The statement read that both the leaders agreed to work jointly and play their roles for the province's rights.

"There is a need to raise a unified voice on every forum for the rights of the province and its people," the statement quoted Mr Kundi as saying.

The governor also said that they would work jointly for development and peace in the province.

Zahiruddin in Chitral also contributed to this report

US seeks Pakistan's help to balance China

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ISLAMABAD: Pakistani officials, led by Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb, hold talks with a US delegation from the Critical Minerals Forum.—X/Financegovpk

copper and antimony, and aims to de-risk investments from both financial and security perspectives".

He also promised a commitment to support technology transfer, intellectual property protection, and US private-sector investor confidence.

Mr Strayer noted that the US viewed Pakistan's science, engineering, and mathematics talent as a competitive advantage and "acknowledged Pakistan's potential to become a future hub for critical mineral development," the statement added.

Natalie Baker, the US Charg d'Affaires in Islamabad who accompanied the delegation, noted the Embassy's support for American commercial engagement in Pakistan and "emphasised the importance of ensuring strong investor confidence and enabling regulatory frameworks in the minerals sector".

In response, Mr Aurangzeb said Pakistan is working on significant legal and regulatory reforms and would welcome structured proposals. "We encourage you to return with a detailed framework for collaboration. Pakistan will evaluate it with a view to facilitating responsible investment and ensuring mutual benefit," the minister said.

Mr Aurangzeb also positioned Pakistan as navigating a complex geopolitical landscape, highlighting its strengthened partnerships. "Pakistan today stands at a constructive intersection of global relationships—renewed momentum in Pakistan-US ties, time-tested relations with China, and forward-looking strategic cooperation with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia," he said.

He stressed that Pakistan's mineral sector represents a "transformational opportunity" that could shift the country from "consumption-driven cycles to export-led growth."

He added, "A strong minerals policy framework will help Pakistan break the cycle of periodic balance-of-payments pressures and reduce future reliance on multilateral support."

The minister also updated the delegation that during his recent visit to Washington he met multiple global financial institutions, including Development Finance Corporation (DFC) and International Finance Corporation (IFC), which expressed interest in expanding investments in Pakistan.

US stakeholders are concerned about China's growing control over global critical minerals. The CMF president noted Chinese dominance stems from government subsidies, vertical integration, and lax regulations, especially in processing, which is energy and compliance-dependent, contrasting with US under-investment.

According to the influential US Atlantic Council, critical minerals are foundational to the modern economy and state power, essential for advanced technologies in energy, military, and commercial applications. They range from permanent magnets in fighter jets to batteries in electric vehicles.

The Atlantic Council warned that these "supply chains have become increasingly brittle: concentrated in a handful of countries, overwhelmingly refined in China, and increasingly exposed to extreme weather disruption." It noted that China has shown a "willingness to weaponise its dominance", tightening export restrictions on materials like graphite and antimony in retaliation for US trade controls.

However, a major obstacle to US investment remains, Strayer said, citing the "unusually high uncertainty of both production costs and mineral prices".

He added that this uncertainty has "a chilling effect on new investment by profit-seeking companies, as investors prefer to make investments in projects with higher risk-adjusted expected profits."

Imran's video-link trial

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anti-terrorism provisions.

The new notification consolidates all eleven Rawalpindi district cases before the same ATC, streamlining the trial process. These cases include charges related to attacks on military installations, police stations, and public property during the May 9 riots.

The order has been circulated to key officials, including the advocate general of Punjab, the registrar of the Lahore High Court, the presiding judge of the Rawalpindi ATC, and the inspector general of prisons. It also instructs the superintendent of Adiala jail to ensure Imran Khan's safe and secure participation via video link.

Imran Khan, who was indicted in the GHQ attack case on December 5, 2024, has been incarcerated in Adiala jail since August 2023. He was subsequently arrested in additional May 9 cases in January 2024.

The PTI founder's legal team has consistently argued that the government's insistence on conducting the trials through video link is politically motivated and undermines the principle of open justice. However, the provincial authorities maintain that the arrangement is strictly a security measure.

With the latest notification, the stage is now set for all pending May 9 cases in Rawalpindi to proceed simultaneously in the ATC via video link — a move that could expedite proceedings but also reignite the legal debate over the right to a fair and public trial.

Preparations for Quetta LG polls

QUETTA: The Provincial Election Commissioner, Balochistan, Ali Asghar Sial, has announced that local body elections for the Quetta Metropolitan Corporation will be held soon in accordance with the directives of the Balochistan High Court, and preparations in this regard are currently underway.

Speaking at a press conference on Friday, the election commissioner said that preparations were in the final stages and the official election schedule would be announced in the first week of November. He said the elections would be conducted in 641 wards under 172 Union Councils, based on the existing delimitations.—Saleem Shahid

PM hails Pakistan's prominence on world stage

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with the students of Aitchison College by receiving high-quality education," he added.

PM Shehbaz announced that construction of the Daanish school building would begin in December this year and will be completed within a year, with classes to be inaugurated by him next year.

The premier also announced several development projects for Chitral, including the establishment of a university and a state-of-the-art hospital in Upper Chitral, as well as the completion of the 153-kilometre Chitral-Shandur Road by December next year.

He further announced the completion of the gas plant project in Chitral, which had been initiated during the government of his brother, Nawaz Sharif.

Earlier, Federal Minister Amir Muqam, in his address, highlighted the performance of the PML-N government and described the prime minister's tireless work and efforts as exemplary.

He criticised the provincial government of KP, stating that it should focus on performance-based politics rather than adopting a confrontational approach.

Later, PM Shehbaz visited Gahiret village to congratulate one of his protocol staff members on his recent marriage.

PBA elects new office-bearers

KARACHI: The Pakistan Broadcasters Association (PBA) held its annual general body meeting on Friday to elect new members.

During the meeting, the general body elected three TV members as directors on the PBA board in the elected member category. The newly elected directors include *Neo TV's* Mr Chaudhry Abdul Rehman, *Mehran TV's* Mr Ghulam Nabi Morai and *City 42's* Ms Verda Naqvi.

In the Radio category, *FM-106.2's* Mr Shahid Jamal, *Radio Awaz's* Mr Mirza Muhammad Naeem, *FM-89's* Ms Nazafreen S. Lakhani, *FM-91's* Ms Sara Taher Khan and *FM-105's* Mr Zulfiqar Ali Shah were elected unopposed as directors on the PBA Board.

Following the general body session, the PBA board convened and elected new office-bearers for the year 2025–2026. The office-bearers include Chairman Mian Amer Mehmood *(Dunya TV)*, Senior Vice Chairman Salman Iqbal (*ARY*), Vice Chairman Mir Ibrahim Rahman (*Geo TV*), Secretary General Shakeel Masud Hussain (*DawnNewsTV*), Joint Secretary Ahmed Zuberi (*Aaj TV*) and Finance Secretary M. Athar Kazi (*KTN)*.

All office-bearers were elected unopposed.—Staff Reporter

New AJK PM's announcement to be made from Kashmir

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hopes and dreams of the people of Kashmir.

He said there was a solution to all the problems facing AJK.

"Whatever the issues are, PPP has a reputation for finding political solutions," he asserted.

The PPP chairman said the party's foundation was laid down in the name of the Kashmir cause. "Three generations of the PPP leaders have struggled for the cause on both national and international levels," he added.

Mr Bhutto-Zardari asserted that PPP was the sole party, which was capable of representing Kashmir within the country as well as internationally. He vowed to give a "befitting response" to any conspiracy against AJK.

Though he left no hint when the no-trust motion against the AJK premier would be tabled, a member of the AJK legislative assembly from PPP said it was expected any time during the first two weeks of November.

The PPP chairman said 27 members of the AJK legislative assembly-the number required to remove incumbent AJK prime minister, attended the Friday meeting.

However, he also remarked that whosoever was picked by President Zardari would be the next AJK premier.

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4.	Rs. 35.00	19.	Rs. 50.00
5.	Rs. 50.00	20.	Rs. 35.00
6.	Rs. 35.00	21.	Rs. 35.00
7.	Rs. 35.00	22.	Rs. 35.00
8.	Rs. 35.00	23.	Rs. 35.00
9.	Rs. 35.00	24.	Rs. 35.00
10.	Rs. 35.00	25.	Rs. 35.00
11.	Rs. 35.00	26.	Rs. 50.00
12.	Rs. 50.00	27.	Rs. 35.00
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